

for healthcare. It's absolutely unacceptable to propose forcing a greater financial burden on our nation's veterans. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of H.R. 579, the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, which would protect our veterans from these unnecessary TRICARE fee increases. Our promise of affordable health care for our veterans is one that we must keep.

Additionally, the generation of veterans returning home from combat areas in Iraq and Afghanistan requires new resources to treat their medical needs. However, rather than re-investing in treatments for traumatic brain injuries (TBI), the Administration has barely scratched the surface of addressing the mental health needs of our veterans. That's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 1444, the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act, which would require the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to actively screen and develop long-term care programs for veterans suffering from TBI.

Furthermore, we must not allow the substandard care, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and dilapidated conditions at Walter Reed to symbolize our dedication to our veterans. I was pleased that the House unanimously passed H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will reduce much of the bureaucracy that prevents veterans from receiving quality healthcare, require more caseworkers to be hired, improve the system enabling wounded soldiers to transition from active duty to the VA system, and create a system of patients advocates to hold the VA accountable for problems.

We cannot allow this Administration's record of broken promises to our veterans become an accepted standard of treatment. We can do better. I have introduced H.R. 508, the Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act, which would require sufficient funding for veterans' health care every year and would guarantee broad physical and mental healthcare for our veterans.

Memorial Day reminds us that meeting the needs of our service men and women requires sustained commitment and determination. We have a moral obligation to ensure that our veterans have the benefits they need. Their profound dedication and patriotism deserve no less.

IN MEMORY OF RALPH BERING
BUSCH, JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend Ralph Bering Busch, Jr., MD, who passed away on May 23 at age 84.

Dr. Busch was a medical pioneer in Ventura County, California. In the 1960s, Dr. Busch and his partner, M. Kathleen Belton, MD, became the first anesthesiologists to practice in Ventura County. They covered St. John's Hospital in Oxnard, Santa Paula Memorial Hospital, Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, and occasionally Ojai Valley Community Hospital. Dr. Busch served at Santa Paula Memorial Hospital for twenty years and retired from Community Memorial Hospital in 1989.

Dr. Busch came to California after serving in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy for four

years, after graduating from high school, college, and medical school in the Midwest. He interned at University of Southern California, Los Angeles County Hospital and then practiced at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank for the next ten years.

In 1959, he married Deborah "Deedee" Bennett of Palm Springs. As their family grew, they decided to seek the country life of Ventura County. It was a good choice for them and for Ventura County. Ralph and Deedee have been blessed with six children and eighteen grandchildren.

In addition to his dedication to his practice and his family, Dr. Busch dedicated himself to the greater medical community and the community in which he lived. He was a past member of the California and American Societies of Anesthesiology, Ventura County Medical Society, Community Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, Ventura County Museum of History and Art Board of Directors, and Berry Petroleum Co. Board of Directors. He was a forty-five-year member of Saticoy Country Club.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Dr. Ralph Bering Busch, Jr., as a good friend, a loving family man, a pioneer in Ventura County medicine, and one who worked to make his community stronger. In addition, I know my colleagues join me in extending our condolences to Deedee and their family and to all who called Ralph a friend.

Godspeed, Ralph.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT M.
STEPTOE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a great patriot, public citizen, and revered member of his community, Mr. Robert M. Steptoe.

Born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on May 15, 1920, Mr. Steptoe grew up in north central West Virginia and thereafter attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He continued his studies at Haverford College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

At the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Steptoe served in the United States Navy as the commanding officer of two ships in the sub-chaser class. Mr. Steptoe was involved in the invasions of Sicily, Anzio, southern France, and a brief stint in the Southern Pacific. He retired from the United States Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Following his service during World War II, Mr. Steptoe graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in February 1949 and began a career in law that spanned over 50 years of distinguished legal practice in Martinsburg, West Virginia. A member of the West Virginia State Bar, the West Virginia Bar Association, the Berkeley County Bar Association, and the United States Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit; Mr. Steptoe was awarded the Award of Merit by the West Virginia Bar Association in 2003 in recognition of his years of service.

Mr. Steptoe was also an active public servant who was elected to the West Virginia

House of Delegates for four terms and the West Virginia Senate for two terms. He also served as a judge of the West Virginia Court of Claims.

In addition to his professional activities, Mr. Steptoe was an active member of the Rotary, Trinity Episcopal Church, and a member of the Elks Club. Above all, Mr. Steptoe was a proud and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Steptoe's life and accomplishments are truly representative of the courage, character and altruism that is often associated with members of our "Greatest Generation." West Virginia was well served by this great American and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD L. BOUIE,
SR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many schools strive to excel in competition on the national level.

Ten years ago, the DeKalb County School system gave birth to Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School and named this extraordinary school for an extraordinary man.

For 10 years now under the leadership and guidance of the past and present principals, teachers, staff, parents, and students, this school has met and exceeded national standards.

The Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School family constantly demonstrates the will to win, the courage to win, the mechanics of teamwork and the astounding spirit of triumph gained from educating students to be the very best in leadership, scholarship, and service.

Our beloved county, children, and community will benefit from the fruits of that labor insuring that our district, our state and our nation will always be prosperous and productive.

This extraordinary school is celebrating the milestone of their 10th anniversary and I was pleased to proclaim May 18, 2007 as Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School Day in the 4th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING COLBY JOHN
BUEHLER FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colby John Buehler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colby has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colby has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colby John Buehler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Colby in the United States House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO NICK TOPPING

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Nick Topping, a highly respected, social justice activist, music impresario and business owner. Mr. Topping died on May 9, 2007, at the age of 89.

Mr. Topping earned a degree in history and communications from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. During World War II, he was drafted and served in Army intelligence. When he returned, he founded a store named Topping and Company International House that he ran for over 50 years. The store stocked Greek and Middle Eastern food, books, and records from all over the world.

Mr. Topping was one of nine children born to Greek immigrant parents who ran a grocery store at South 4th Street and West National Avenue. Mr. Topping was born Nick Topitzes and changed his name at the age of 18 because of the discrimination Greeks faced at that time.

Nick Topping spent much of his lifetime working for peace and social justice. He marched with Father James Groppi over the 16th Street Viaduct during Milwaukee's civil rights struggle and took his daughters along on the marches with him. He belonged to the NAACP and became an early local protestor against the Vietnam War. Mr. Topping was also active in the growing south side Latino community and in the Chicano rights movement.

Mr. Topping was a promoter of ethnic and folk music concerts in the 1950s and '60s including singers such as: Miriam Makeba, from South Africa; Pete Seeger; Josh White; Peter, Paul & Mary; Bob Dylan; and Greek composer, Mikis Theodorakis, music composer for the movie *Zorba the Greek*. Nick Topping secured his place in modern Milwaukee history by securing the Beatles for their one and only Milwaukee concert on September 4, 1964. The concert quickly sold out with the most expensive ticket selling for \$5.50.

Nick Topping is survived by his wife of 56 years, Harriet; two daughters, Adele Fatemi-Topping and Alexandra Topping; a brother, Agamemnon (Memo); and a sister, Sandra Topitzes Brown, all of Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Nick Topping. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements. I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO FRAN LUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fran Lus for his 12 years of service to Chautauqua County. Mr. Lus is a wonderful example of what public service should be.

I would like briefly to touch on the many areas of service that Fran has been involved with. Fran was first elected to the Chautauqua County Legislature in 1995 as a representative of district 23 in Portland. He served as the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Lus is also a member of the Public Facilities Committee and serves as a delegate to the Inter-County Association of Western New York and is a member of the Cornell Co-operative Extension Board of Directors.

I must also acknowledge Mr. Lus' other interests. He serves as a member of the Stop DWI Committee, the Southern Tier Extension Rail Authority Board, is a life long member of the Southwestern N.Y. Volunteer Firemen's Association and an exempt fireman of the Brocton Fire Department. He was also a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department for 3 years. Fran was recently elected to the Brocton Central School Hall of Fame.

I am proud to mention that Mr. Lus served his country during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954 as a member of the United States Air Force and is a life member and former commander of the John W. Dill post 434.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Fran on his wonderful job well done in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Fran, you will be missed by all of the constituents whose lives you touched. Enjoy your retirement!

HONORING DR. SPENCER FOREMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, for more than two decades Dr. Spencer Foreman's leadership has made Montefiore Medical Center (MMC) one of the most forward thinking and academic medical centers in the country. He is a national health leader, and a respected expert in hospital administration and medicine. Dr. Foreman is a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine, a former chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges and a past trustee of the American Hospital Association. Annually, MMC treats more than 60,000 new patients, has more than 400,000 home visits, and 1.8 million outpatient visits. That, plus an annual budget of more than \$1.9 billion, makes it one of the largest academic medical centers in the country.

For more than a century, MMC has had a long and distinguished history of meeting the healthcare needs of New Yorkers and patients from around the world.

MMC is one of the most innovative medical centers in the country with a staff of brilliant doctors, nurses and associates on all levels

dedicated to giving every patient the highest quality care and service.

This did not happen by accident. The leadership of Dr. Foreman for over two decades led MMC to the top of its class.

I have always been proud to tell people that Montefiore Medical Center is in my Congressional district. It is a mainstay of health care in the Bronx which is famous throughout the world.

But more than that, I have always been delighted to say that Dr. Foreman has been my friend. Dr. Foreman took charge at Montefiore about the same time I came to Congress. For over 18 years we have worked together to better the healthcare system. I count him among my trusted advisors on the state of healthcare in our Nation.

What he has accomplished will continue for generations. He has created a model of health care efficiency to which it can truly be said that thousands owe their lives and well-being. I am proud of the work of Montefiore Medical Center. I am proud of the accomplishments of Dr. Foreman but even more so I am proud of my friend Spike.

IN HONOR OF THE SAINT FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Saint Francis Soup Kitchen, which recently celebrated its 25th year of service in the Santa Cruz community. St. Francis is an organization founded and run by volunteers who love to help others. In the 25 years that it has been around, St. Francis has fed and clothed countless people who are in need. The city of Santa Cruz has approximately 400 people who are homeless, yet St. Francis is one way in which the community is trying to help the problem.

Father Peter Carota deserves special recognition as the founder of the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. In 1981, when still a layman, Peter sold his home and used the money to start St. Francis. Feeding the poor out of the back of a van, Peter Carota began his dream of running a soup kitchen to feed the homeless. A few years later, in 1983, Peter and some volunteers purchased the property of the current soup kitchen and St. Francis was born. Peter has since become a priest, but his work at St. Francis is carried on by devoted volunteers.

The soup kitchen was founded to help people in need and that is exactly what it does. The kitchen never turns a hungry person away and feeds up to 180 people at lunch every weekday. St. Francis not only provides free lunch every day to the homeless, it also operates a clothing room that provides donated clothes free of charge to guests. However, St. Francis could not function without the support of the dedicated volunteers and the help drawn from churches, high schools, UC Santa Cruz, and the broader community.

Madam Speaker, the St. Francis Soup Kitchen has contributed so much to the city of Santa Cruz and the surrounding community; I have only scratched the surface of its beneficial and compassionate dedication. I commend the St. Francis Soup Kitchen for all that